









CHINA GRASS.

The problem of extracting the fibre of the China grass plant, or rhea, has at length been solved in a manner which will ensure the entry of this valuable material to the textile industry. The value of the fibre has long been known, and large rewards have from time to time been offered for the invention of a machine that would extract it from the plant under conditions of ease and economy. The fibre itself belongs to the nettle family. Its bark, in which the fibre is embedded, is composed of strongly adherent fibrous material; and the difficulty in treating them for manufacturing purposes has lain in the separation of the fibre from this material, which consists of two substances which have been named vasculose and pectose. A limited quantity of China grass fibre has for a considerable number of years past found its way into the hands of English and Continental manufacturers; but as it has been produced by hand-picking, and other tedious processes, its price has been almost prohibitive—amounting to £100 per ton. The fibre is exceptionally long and fine, its strength is said to be twice that of flax; it has a beautiful silky lustre, takes dye readily, bleaches to the purest white, may be spun and woven on the machines used in the flax manufacture, is very durable, and years of it will, when the process is generally introduced, be produced at half the price of flax yarn. Another advantage is that the seedlings, or "rhea," are much more reliable than the tow of flax, as from their woolly nature and great strength they admit of profitable use in many ways, amongst others, in improving the strength of the material in which they are employed, and in the manufacture of paper. A material of which all this can be truly said is bound eventually to take a prominent place in the textile manufactures of the world; and it is interesting to learn that the flax which has hitherto stood in the way of its introduction on a large scale have been overcome. The rhea plant is indigenous to India and China, but may be cultivated in European countries. It is from India, however, that the supply may be looked for, as the rhea can be cultivated there, and with the aid of the new appliances, the fibre and seed it is to be marketed at a price which will enable it to compete with the flax of the world. The rhea plant is a very bulky, considering the quantity of fibre they contain—from ten to twelve tons of stalks yielding only one ton of fibre; and it was necessary to devise a machine to extract the fibre to have regard to this fact. In offering a prize for a machine to denature the rhea stems, the Indian Government made it an absolute condition that the operation should be performed when the plants are green—in fact, that it should be conducted on the ground where the plant was grown, and immediately it was cut down. No machine yet produced has fulfilled the conditions of the competition, though interesting results have been obtained in some cases. The prize of £5,000 which was offered on two occasions was not won by any of the competitors; and the Government of India has left the task of rhea fibre extraction to private enterprise. We have stated that the difficulties in the way of obtaining an unlimited supply of rhea fibre at a price which will ensure its extensive use have been removed; and we should now briefly describe how this has been accomplished. M. A. Favier, a French gentleman, invented the first stage of the process, and brought it into notice about two years ago. The object he had in view was to discover some simple method of stripping the bark containing the fibre from the stem, and so reducing the weight of material to be transported. He found this by enclosing two thousand stems in a wooden chest, treating the chest for four or five days with steam at one end, and subjecting them to the action of steam for fifteen or twenty minutes, the bark readily peeled from the stem, or even, if the steam was not used, by the use of a small portable boiler, heated with the separated bark, an arrangement as simple as it is economical. The bark as peeled off by children, after the steaming process, is of a fine, even fibre, and the plant in an unripe condition, but still adherent to the stem. The invention, however, was so important that a company, named the Lini-Sole Syndicate, was formed to work it. During the process of the process, preparing the fibre by getting rid of the glutinous matter, the syndicate called to their aid Professor Favier, a member of the Institute of France, and well known to his countrymen by the notice of his plants. Professor Favier and his chief assistant, M. Urbain, devoted a whole year to experiments; with the result that they discovered a chemical process whereby the whole fibre could be put in perfect condition, capable of producing yarn of any number, with the appearance, malleability, strength, and silky brilliancy peculiar to flax at half the cost of flax. The process is now being carried out at a large factory at Louviers, and it is expected that the value of the invention of M. Favier and his co-workers will be increased by the fact that the process is now being carried out in India. An attempt will also be made to introduce the cultivation of China grass into Ireland, and thus compensate for the effect which the extension of the use of flax will have on the flax industry.—*St. James's Gazette.*

HONGKONG TIDE TABLE.

HIGH WATER.				LOW WATER.			
Day.	Month.	Year.	Time.	Day.	Month.	Year.	Time.
1	Feb.	1884	11.15	1	Feb.	1884	5.15
2	"	"	12.15	2	"	"	4.15
3	"	"	1.15	3	"	"	3.15
4	"	"	2.15	4	"	"	2.15
5	"	"	3.15	5	"	"	1.15
6	"	"	4.15	6	"	"	12.15
7	"	"	5.15	7	"	"	11.15
8	"	"	6.15	8	"	"	10.15
9	"	"	7.15	9	"	"	9.15
10	"	"	8.15	10	"	"	8.15
11	"	"	9.15	11	"	"	7.15
12	"	"	10.15	12	"	"	6.15

The height of mean low water has been determined by 7 feet for above the low water of the Victoria Harbour, and the low water of the Victoria Harbour, in which the tide gauge is used, is 1.5 feet above the low water of the Victoria Harbour.

The height of the tide is given with a minus sign (-) when the tide is below the mean low water of the Victoria Harbour, and with a plus sign (+) when it is above.

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VESSELS ADVERTISED AS LOADING.

DESTINATION	VESSEL'S NAME	CAPTAIN	AT	FOR FREIGHT APPLY TO	TO BE DESPATCHED
HAMBURG	Selat Idem	Durand	Hongkong	Carlowitz & Co.	Quick despatch.
LONDON via SUEZ CANAL.	Glouce (str.)	Charles Matheson & Co.		Quick despatch.	On or about 13th inst.
STONING	Orms (str.)	Billings		Butterfield & Swire	On or about 13th inst.
MAUSELLES, via SAIGON, &c.	Huact (str.)	Rapet		Messageries Maritimes.	On 12th inst., at Noc
NEW YORK via SUEZ CANAL.	Solanah (str.)	Powder	Hongkong	Russell & Co.	On or about 15th inst.
SAN FRANCISCO	Heck (str.)	Holm		Russell & Co.	Quick despatch.
ST. LOUIS	Penelope (str.)	G. Green		Gibb, Livingston & Co.	On or about 12th inst.
SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE.	Woonung (str.)	Hant		Butterfield & Swire	On 14th inst., at 4 P.
SYDNEY AND M. LOUBOURNE.	Kurina (str.)	Peters	Hongkong	Russell & Co.	On 15th inst., at 4 P.
CALCUTTA, via STRAITS.	Volga (str.)	De Quen		Dunlop, Stewart & Co.	On 15th inst., at 4 P.
CHENNAI, via STRAITS.	Jagan (str.)	T. S. Gardiner	Hongkong	Dunlop, Stewart, Sons & Co.	On 14th inst., at 4 P.
BOMBAY, via STRAITS.	Bangalore (str.)			P. & O. S. N. Co.	To-morrow, at 2 P.
IOILOLO AND SANDAKAN, &c.	Amavatia (str.)	Holm		Russell & Co.	On 15th inst., at 5 P.
NAGASACKI, KOBE, &c.	Takakishi-Maru (str.)	Nyo.		M. B. H. S. S. Co.	On 15th inst., at 5 P.
YOKOHAMA, &c.	Volga (str.)	De Quen		Messageries Maritimes.	Quick despatch.
SHANGHAI	Poekang (str.)	Floge	Hongkong	Jardine, Matheson & Co.	To-morrow, at 5 P.
SHANGHAI	Amoyr (str.)	Tillier		Messageries Maritimes.	Quick despatch.
SHANGHAI	Choolyong (str.)	Makinlay		Jardine, Matheson & Co.	On or about 13th inst.
SHANGHAI	Callan (str.)	Russell & Co.		Russell & Co.	To-morrow, at 5 P.
SIATOW AND BANGKOK	Mongkat (str.)	H. P. Lo	Hongkong	Yuen Fat Hong	On 10th inst., at 8 A.



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THE STORY OF THEODORE,  
KING OF GREECE.

... KING OF CORSICA.  
... 150 years ago Theodore ...

render the Turk water tight of all Italy, to make the Island of Corsica serve as a warehouse for the Moors of Tunis and Algiers from whence they might easily, and without any risk, make good their escape to the coast of Tripoli and Tuscany, whilst the constant depredations of the Barbary pirates would be rendered unprofitable to those of Calabria, and the Turks in the March of Ancona. He showed the facility of that enterprise almost to a demonstration. He added that this conquest would open a way into Germany, that one might penetrate into Styria through Frience, and before the gates of Vienna with more ease and success than thence to Constantinople, to King Mustapha. That they might there be joined by another Turkish army by way of Hungary, and thus the House of Austria would be irrevocably lost." However, this tempting bait was not risen to with the Emperor. Theodore had hoped, and growing impatient at the delay he ventured to Alton, where he had been told the Bay of Tunis to furnish him with a small fleet of galleys and arms. With public expectation this proved, one morning in March, 1736, the inhabitants of Alton perceived a sail upon the horizon. "A large vessel was seen to be making for the little lagoon. Behind, two smaller craft were following. The new arrivals drew all to the shore, and the multitude was on sure in excitement. Now, indeed, the romance was going to begin, and here was the last chapter. As the eyes discovered

**A CURIOUS PLANT.**

In an article in the *National Review* on the plant ganjah, which is used as an intoxicating drug in India, it is stated that Dr. Gowers gives the particulars of several cases in which the use of ganjah has been the defence that ganjah had excited the fury or perverted the hand of the murderer. He also mentions several cases of "running amuck," as it is called, where a man madly attacks and slays every person he meets while he is in this state of frenzy; but some of these cases are attributed to the use of opium as well as ganjah. He remarks that "the British Government in India always keep themselves almost constantly under the influence of ganjah, the excess being that this mode of intoxication abstracts the thoughts from the objects of sense, and assists their absorption into the Duty. The fact of an habitual ganjah smoker can scarcely be mistaken. The expression of the face, the action of the limbs, and the ideas that reason has been partially unseated." As to the growth of the plant, the eminent botanist, Mr. Charles Clarke, who lately held high office at Kew Gardens, recorded the following remarks when he was holding a Government appointment in Bengal:—"The whole country (about Rajshahy) abounds, especially in waste spots round villages, with the plant, and the men, women, and families are equally addicted. The ganjah plant is supposed to be a variety of this

This gentleman one day saw half a dozen Mobile Guards apparently firing at a dozen of chimneye on the roof of a tall house. One of the latter was a tall, thin, dark man in a military uniform holding a blue flag in one hand and a red flag in the other, and wearing in front of him a long apron painted dull red, with thin white lines, so as to resemble the brickwork of the neighbouring chimneys, between two of which he was crouched. Having been observed waving his flags—of course as signal to the Germans—without effect, he was shot at by the Mobiles, but was not once hit. In a little while he slid down the slated roof, and dropped into the balcony of the floor beneath, through the window of which he disappeared. The Mobiles at once entered the house—which was large, fully occupied—and searched it from top to bottom, for upwards of an hour, without, however, discovering the man. He was, however, seen by the soldiers dared (original, in broad daylight, and from a populous quarter of Paris, to his comrades beyond the fortifications. Another story, illustrating the coolness and daring of Prussian officers, was told about the same time. Lieutenant Hoffman, of the 12th Company of the Royal Grenadier Regiment, was one day talking before the Crown Prince of what remained of the outposts upon the heights of Bellevue. He was in a laughing way, "I wish you would bring me a late paper from one of the houses beyond the lines." When next the lieutenant was on duty, he went in advance of the sentries, and into the dusk slipped into a house within a few hundred yards of Fort de Valerien. Here he found an Englishman at whom he levelled his revolver, and at the same time the latter laid down a loaded paper. It was produced, and the master of the house entreated the officer to receive some wine in order that he (the master) might tell his countrymen that the foray had been made for the sake of drink. The Crown Prince doubtless valued his newspaper when he got it, and the courageous and spirited young man was not likely to have been trifling in itself; but it showed the stuff of which Prussian officers were made.—*Cassell's Illustrated History of the Franco-German War.*

Kiang-ping Yot-sai	—	Holmes Lefavour	Out. sett.
Shin On	Dec. 14	Blumenberg	Ann. s.
Ningbo	Feb. 7	R. Crawford	Brit. s.
Andriotes Assens	Dec. 11	Marry	Brit. s.
Chloris	Jan. 18	Vindin	Dan. s.
Galston	Nov. 4	M. Matzen	Ger. s.
Johns Carl Mitten	Dec. 31 Jan. 13	Staubel F. Ploger	Ger. s. Nor. s.
		Kregoe	—
			In.
A. E. Sleeper	Oct. 29	Sleeper	Amer. s.
Chibaya Maru	Jan. 23	Murray	Japan.
Chindata	Aug. 10	Taylor	Chi. s.
Clare Thomson	Aug. 5	Dick	Brit. s.
Eloland	Jan. 20	—	Dent. s.
E. F. Hinchfield	Jan. 12	S. Halling	Amer. s.
Georgy	Oct. 18	Grant	Brit. s.
H. B. Tapley	Jan. 15	Finnlayson	—
Jorfa	Jan. 3	Bentley	Brit. s.
John Percot	Jan. 30	Margill	—
Constante Mar	Aug. 23	Ellis	Brit. s.
Loonzi Waa	Jan. 24	Lord	Brit. s.
Minnu	Dec. 28	Nass	—
Owasa	Jan. 17	Brown	Brit. s.
Satsuma	Jan. 27	Morrison	Brit. s.
Sea Sparrow	May	May	Brit. s.
Stephen	Jan. 10	Trumppeter	Ger. s.
			—
Friedrich	Jan. 25	Moss	Ger. s.
			In.
Blank	Nov. 10	Brassay	Amer. s.
Alus Diamond	Oct. 2	Bordy	—
Cross Hill	Oct. 23	Paterson	Brit. s.
Diana	Oct. 28	Peterson	—
E. v. Bearon	Nov. 20	Outing	—
Sam	Aug. 23	Mear	Brit. s.
Guilford Star	Jan. 19	Schultze	Brit. s.
Holena	Nov. 6	Busk	Brit. s.
Isobear	Dec. 27	Cavert	Amer. s.
Jon. Harkness	Dec. 20	Amerbay	—
Lulu	Nov. 0	Wetoch	Amer. s.
Mary C. Bohm	Nov. 23	Bassie	Ger. s.
Nemo	Oct. 28	Ridderhjelleke	Rys. s.
Otago	Nov. 12	Evale	Brit. s.
Osage	Nov. 18	Wilson	Amer. s.
Regulus	Nov. 17	Johnson	Utas. s.
Stella	Nov. 17	Isaacs	—

	MACAO.	
tr	360 C. M. S. N. Co	
11	H. C. & M. Steamboat Co	Canton
	W. H. & P. M.	
tr	336 1 Chinese	
	SHANTON.	
tr	761 Stanton & Co	
	AM. F. Y.	
Port on	1st FEBRUARY, 1884	
ok	409 Earl & Co	
ok	255 H. A. Paterson & Co	
ok	344 H. A. Paterson & Co	
ok	610 Pasadaz & Co	
ok	744 Pasadaz & Co	
ok	497 H. A. Paterson & Co	
	SHANGHAI.	
Port on	2nd FEBRUARY, 1884	
ok	493 Russell & Co	
ok	587 Morris & Co	
ok	441 M. B. Kwaisia	
ok	472 C. M. S. N. Co	
ok	353 Russell & Co	
ok	J. A. Mitchell	
ok	1041 Almazoa, Bell & Co	
ok	895 Almazoa, Bell & Co	
ok	900 Russell & Co	
ok	287 Morris & Co	
ok	473 Morris & Co	
ok	584 W. R. Kwaisia	
ok	374 Morris & Co	
ok	431 Nils Muller	
ok	480 Morris & Co	
ok	564 Morris & Co	
ok	825 Lewis & Hopkins	
ok	1223 Mothers & Co	
	FOOHOOW.	
Port on	20th JANUARY, 1884	
tr	295 J. P. Combs, Jr.	Takao
	YOKOHAMA.	
Port on	25th JANUARY, 1884	
ok	45 J. D. Carroll & Co	
ok	670 P. Bohm	
ok	1619 H. McArthur	
ok	77 Master	
ok	336 Grouser & Co	
ok	294 Master	
ok	312 J. E. Chulley & Co	
ok	60 Captain	
ok	1135 C. & J. Trading Co	
ok	1773 Smith, Baker & Co	
ok	70 J. D. Carroll & Co	
ok	43 P. Bohm	
ok	123 Glasburg	
ok	41 Captain	
ok	53 B. Clarke	
ok	52 B. Clarke	
ok	40 F. Beta & Co	

CANTON GUNBOATS.		CANTON GUNBOATS.	
NAME.	FLAG AND REG.	TONS.	FOUR.
An-lan	Viceroy's gunboat	7	25
Che-ching	Revenue cruiser	3	8
Chien-jui	Revenue cruiser	3	8
Chien-to	Viceroy's gunboat	7	25
Ching-taing	Viceroy's gunboat	4	13
Ching-tung	Viceroy's gunboat	4	13
Hai-sheng-shing	Viceroy's gunboat	—	—
Hai-king-shing	Viceroy's gunboat	—	—
Hai-tung-shing	Viceroy's gunboat	—	—
Pang-chao-lai	Viceroy's gunboat	4	13
Quang-on	Revenue cruiser	3	8
San Hang	Viceroy's gunboat	3	9
Tehing-on	Viceroy's gunboat	3	12
Tehing-po	Viceroy's gunboat	3	10

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800	Captain Sohna	Yokohama
150	Commander Caillard	Saigon
250	Commander L. Kempf	Kobe
—	Commander Lafou	Hongkong
—	Captain Accinei	Hongkong
—	Captain Ferrat	Hongkong
—	Captain Marot de Pagnon	Hongkong
600	Commander Bréat	Shanghai
80	Captain Koltz	Yokohama
1200	Capt. McCormack	Canton
—	Capt. Houston	Tongku
80	Commander Starck	Vladivostok
100	Commander Klansa	Shanghai
—	Capt. B. H. Harrington	Shanghai
375	Commander Beaumont	Hongkong
750	Captain D. de la Batie	Hon-kong
4500	Captain Huriez	Ceiden
100	Captain Rorig	Hongkong
700	Commander G. S. Cotton	Shanghai
80	Commander Hoyle	Nagasaki
250	Captain Kalyagass	Hongkong
50	C. mander Valronnet	Vladivostok
200	Capt. B. Desverchoff	Shanghai
800	Lieut. Commander Green	Tientsin
—	Captain Sierrett	Shanghai
—	Captain Blundareff	Nagasaki
80	Commander Boyle	Nagasaki
700	Captain von Buchholz	Shanghai
—	Capt. de Costa Cabral	Macao
—	Commander Meek	Vladivostok
—	Captain Bose	Hongkong
—	Captain Bass	Hongkong
—	Capt. T. M. Warless	Shanghai
600	Captain Davette	Hongkong
—	Captain Fournier	Hongkong
340	Commander von Raven.	Canton

  

BOAT SQUADRON.			
NO.	R.P.	COMMANDER.	STATION.
0	75	—	Hongkong
0	20	—	—
0	17	—	Hongkong
0	10	J. Stewart	Canton
0	60	F. Bessard	—
—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—
125	—	Loong Yui Ting	Canton
40	—	Ohow Shei	Canton
—	—	Loi-ping-tai	—
—	—	Yang Yang Liu	—
40	—	Chinese Admiral	Bogue Foie
—	—	Chinese Admiral	Bogue Forie

FOR WINE, WYCHAM STREET, HONGKONG.

[illegible]